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Letters to the Editor
Boston Herald
P.O. Box 55843
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To the Editor:

Your defense of the Energy and Commerce Committee investigation into three climate scientists and their sponsors ("...and climate questions," July 31) could not be more off the mark.

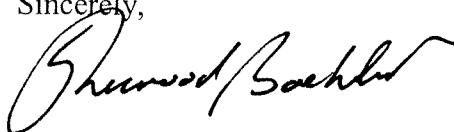
First, what the Energy and Commerce Committee is doing is not an effort to sort through the ongoing and open scientific debate about the historic temperature record. They haven't even bothered to have a public hearing on the subject. No one would object to that. It would be welcomed. Instead, the Chairman and the Subcommittee Chairman for Investigations have sent wide-ranging investigative letters to scientists on one side of the debate. That's not the way Congress typically seeks information.

Second, you characterize the three climate scientists' work as "flawed and misleading" even though the scientific consensus is clearly supportive. Why not ask the president of the National Academy of Sciences or the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science what they and their distinguished organizations think? And you call their detractors "two Canadian scientists" when one is an assistant professor of economics and the other a retired mining executive.

This investigation is unprecedented. Past investigations of scientists involved allegations of fraud. Congress has never before weighed in on one side of a substantive scientific debate by making scientists whose views they find uncomfortable the target of an investigation.

The bottom line? Washington is filled with people who like to say they are for science-based decision making *until* the scientific consensus leads to a politically inconvenient conclusion. Then they go to plan B.

Sincerely,



SHERWOOD BOEHLERT
Chairman